

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today greeted a group of 33 Alabama veterans who visited the National World War II Memorial in Washington as part of the Birmingham Honor Flight program.

Honor Flight is a volunteer organization that arranges one-day trips for World War II veterans to and from the Memorial free of charge.

Congressman Bachus met with veterans at the Memorial to express the appreciation of Alabama and the country for their service. He issued the following statement.

"The National World War II Memorial is our tribute to the brave servicemen and women who fought for freedom during democracy's darkest hour. We are proud of the veterans in Alabama who answered the call of duty. Honor Flight is doing a great thing by bringing our veterans to Washington to see this magnificent memorial, share memories with their colleagues, and remind all of us that we enjoy freedom today because of the sacrifices made by the 'Greatest Generation' more than six decades ago," Congressman Bachus said.

Former Senator Robert Dole, a decorated World War II hero who led the campaign to build the Memorial, also met with the local group.

The 33 veterans taking the trip were accompanied by 21 volunteers, known as Guardians. Pam Nichols and Amy McDonald of Shelby County serve as co-directors of Birmingham Honor Flight. Today's Honor Flight was the third of four planned for this year.

*(Editors: The names of the veterans participating in today's Honor Flight follow.)*

Daniel Brown, Bessemer, Army

Hoover Reed Caufield, Pelham, Navy

Raymond Crawford, Bessemer, Navy

Hollis Hayes, Hoover, Army Air Corps

Arthur DeMattia, Pell City, Army

Howard Schultz, Mountain Brook, Army

Wallace Bowman, Trussville, Army

Bernard Darche, Trussville, Navy

Virgil Elmore, Trussville, Army Air Corps

Basil Kennedy, Gadsden, Navy

James "Dock" Riddle, Trussville, Marines

Cecil Parker, Pratt City, Army

Lloyd Fuhrmeister, North Shelby County, Navy (husband of Mildred Fuhrmeister)

Mildred Fuhrmeister, North Shelby County, Navy (wife of Lloyd Fuhrmeister)

Paul Chism, Vestavia, Navy Air Corps

Lamar Osment, Mountain Brook, Navy

Clyde Wood Jr., Irondale, Navy

William (Bill) Fravert, Hoover, Army Air Corps

James (Jim) Atkinson, Trussville, Air Force

Lucian (Luke) Smith, Trussville, Army

Guy Dill, Pelham, Navy Air Corps

Denis Jones, Dora, Army

George Schafner, Pleasant Grove, Navy

James Philen, Alabaster, Army

William "Bill" Lee, Dora, Army

Clyde White, Vestavia, Army

Challas "Rudy" Blue, Hoover, Navy

Joy Dunlap, Alabaster, Army Air Corps

Sanford Posey, Centerpoint, Army

William Spear, Vestavia, Army

Charlie Turner, Gardendale, Army

Henry Snow, Birmingham, Army Air Corps

Bernie Murphree, Gardendale, Air Force